REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION 28

When I campaigned for the original term limits law more than 20 years ago, we had one goal: end the era of career politicians focused on their own interests over the needs of voters.

We hoped the law would bring a new type of "citizen legislator," who would serve for a short period and return to private life, giving others opportunities to bring fresh ideas and new perspectives to government.

It hasn't turned out that way.

Politicians spend most of their time in office looking for their next job, trying to extend their political careers by constantly rotating from one office to another.

The opponents' arguments are misleading. Read Prop 28 for yourself. It does exactly what it says it will do. Prop 28 closes the loophole that allows legislators to serve as many as 17 years. Prop 28 mandates a hard lifetime limit of 12 years, which can be served in the Senate, the Assembly, or a combination of both. No current or former legislator can extend their time in office because of Prop 28.

The status quo isn't working. After two decades, our term limits law needs reform. Not surprisingly, special interests are arguing for business as usual.

SUBJECT TO COURT ORDERED CHANGES

Will Prop 28 fix every problem we have in Sacramento? No.

But it is a step in the right direction. Prop 28 imposes a hard 12 year limit. It will help improve accountability and focus legislators on the job we elected them to do.

Vote Yes on Prop 28.

Dan Schnur, Chairman (2010-2011) California Fair Political Practices Commission